



## Preparedness and Planning

### Federal Officials Launch New Vaccine Strategy

On February 16, the National Vaccine Advisory Committee to the Department of Health and Human Services released a new vaccine plan for the next decade. [The plan](#) includes information on strategies for advancing vaccine research and development, financing, supply, distribution, safety, global cooperation, and informed decision-making among consumers and health care providers.

### Building Community Resilience to Disasters: A Way Forward to Enhance National Health Security

Community resilience, or the sustained ability of a community to withstand and recover from adversity has become a key policy issue, which is being embraced at federal, state, and local levels. [This report](#) provides a roadmap for leaders who are developing plans to enhance community resilience for health security threats and describes options for building community resilience in key areas.

### HHS Funds Antiradiation Drugs

The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority this week awarded [two contracts](#) for advanced development of drugs to treat skin and lung injuries associated with acute radiation syndrome. The funding from the Department of Health and Human Services will support research studies and manufacturing efforts by Aeolus Pharmaceuticals and U.S. Biotest. The syndrome is caused by high levels of ionizing radiation—the type that results from a nuclear blast.

### New York State Public Health Legal Manual

The New York State Unified Court System and the New York State Bar Association in collaboration with the New York State and City Health Department released a legal manual for public health. [This manual](#) addresses the laws governing control of the spread of communicable diseases and the laws governing mitigation of other issues, such as radiological and chemical contamination, that may cause public health emergencies.

### Civil Liability of Volunteer Health Professionals

Recent natural disasters have triggered mass relief efforts by local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as private organizations and individuals. As unpaid volunteers have carried out much of the relief effort, some have questioned whether such volunteers—particularly medical personnel, so-called “volunteer health professionals” (VHPs)—will be protected from potential civil liability in carrying out their duties. [This report](#) provides a general overview of the various federal and state liability protections available to VHPs responding to disasters.

## News

### ACIP Urges Pertussis Vaccination for Health Workers

Due to the increase in whooping cough cases in 2010, the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has [recommended](#) that healthcare workers receive pertussis vaccine. Also, workers who have been exposed should receive antibiotic treatment to prevent the spread to newborns and other vulnerable patients.

### Foodborne Disease in 2011

A perspective [article](#) by Michael T. Osterholm, PhD, MPH published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* gives an outlook for foodborne disease in 2011. He mentions how the new Food Safety Modernization Act fares as well as how much progress the U.S. has made since the 1990's in making our food safer.

### Need to Find a Red Cross Shelter? There's An App for That!

The American Red Cross has created its first mobile application that allows a person to find nearby shelters in the event of an emergency. [The app](#) is free and available for download from iTunes for the iPhone and iPad.

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### **FEMA and NOAA Partner to Encourage Flood Safety**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are partnering to promote Flood Safety Awareness Week, March 14-18. Flood Safety Awareness Week coincides with NOAA's announcement of the [flood outlook for 2011](#). Both agencies encourage residents to be aware of the dangers associated with flooding and to take precautions for physical safety and [financial security against floods](#).

### **Emergency Sheltering, Relocation, and Evacuation for Healthcare Facilities**

Following the 2009 Red River floods which caused the evacuation of numerous hospitals and long-term care facilities, the Minnesota Department of Public Health has created the Emergency Sheltering, Relocation & Evacuation for Healthcare Facilities template manual. [The plan](#) is to be used to inform healthcare facilities whether to shelter, relocate or evacuate patients and personnel in an emergency. Highlights of the manual include terminology definitions, a decision-making algorithm, master patient evacuation tracking forms, and more.

### **Preserving the Power of Antimicrobial Agents**

James M. Hughes, MD published [commentary](#) in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* regarding antimicrobial agents and how to preserve their effectiveness in the wake of resistant diseases. He argues that part of the problem is lack of development of new antimicrobials. New antimicrobials are not as profitable to develop as drugs used to mitigate lifestyle-related illness. Dr. Hughes argues the other part of the problem is that 50% of all prescribe antimicrobials are unnecessary. He urges public health, veterinary, healthcare, and government to action in order to help preserve the power of antimicrobials.

### **Americans Trust Docs, But Not Computerized Records**

A soon-to-be-released survey from CDW shows that Americans trust their physicians to use their health information responsibly, but they're very concerned that once in electronic format, their personal health information may suddenly show up on the Internet. Their fears may not be unfounded. The survey [data showed](#) 30% and 34% of doctors lack basic anti-virus software and network firewalls, respectively. Most amusingly, however, nearly a quarter of the 1,000 patient respondents said they don't even trust themselves with access to their own electronic health records.

## **Surveillance**

### **Fatal Laboratory-Acquired Infection with an Attenuated *Yersinia pestis***

In the CDC *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, authors describe the first known fatality from a laboratory-acquired infection with attenuated *Yersinia pestis*. The case was identified in Chicago, IL in 2009 and the patient, a researcher in a university laboratory, had been working along with other members of the laboratory group with attenuated strain of *Y. pestis*. Because of this case, the [recommendation](#) for others that work with attenuated strains of *Y. pestis* is that biosafety practices need to be strictly followed.

# Communications

## Emergency Risk Communication CDCynergy Video Clips

Peter Sandman, a risk communications expert, published these [short videos](#) online regarding crisis and emergency risk communication.

- “Move in the Uncomfortable Direction” (1:46) Crisis communication strategies have a side that practitioners find comfortable and a side they find uncomfortable – withholding information versus total candor, for example. Best practice is somewhere in the middle. To get there, practitioners need to move in the uncomfortable direction.
- “Give People Things to Do” (3:34) Giving people things to do – and better yet, choices among things to do – helps them cope with the fear and other feelings that crises arouse.
- “Manage the Risk Communication Seesaw” (2:31) Seesaws prevail in crisis communication as they do in most of risk communication, and practitioners need to climb onto the side they don’t want the public on. To get blamed less by others, for example, it helps to blame yourself more.
- “Be Willing to Speculate” (2:17) Crisis communication absolutely requires speculation; you can’t confine what you say to things that are certain. The trick is to avoid speculating overconfidently or overreassuringly.
- “Here’s How to Speculate” (2:16) Tell what you know and what you don’t. Sound as sure and as unsure as you actually are. Focus on both likeliest scenarios and worst case scenarios – and keep the distinction clear.
- “Let Your Feelings Show” (0:41) To be an effective role model for others, you have to show that you’re feeling what they’re feeling (fear, anger, etc.). Watching you control your feelings helps people control theirs.
- “Tell Stories” (0:42) Telling stories about yourself helps humanize you, which helps people bear the crisis better.
- “Choose the Best Spokesperson” (2:39) You want someone who has communication skill, risk communication training, and technical expertise. You also want someone who likes the job, is willing to simplify, and has enough stature in your organization to make decisions and keep promises.
- “Find a Crisis Communicator” (1:09) You want someone who knows how to guide people who are rightly upset. That isn’t necessarily the same communicator who’s good at arousing concern in people who are un- wisely apathetic.



## Respiratory Protection of Healthcare Workers

The Occupational Safety and Health Organization has produced a 33-minute training video for healthcare employers and workers on the proper use of respirators in order to protect against airborne hazards in healthcare settings. [The video](#) includes information on fit-testing, medical evaluations, training and maintenance of respiratory protection programs.

# Pandemic Planning

## H1N1 Influenza and Its Prevention by Vaccination: Pediatricians' Opinions

Researchers in *BMC Public Health* analyzed the knowledge, attitudes and practices of pediatricians on H1N1 pandemic influenza and prevention utilizing the vaccine. The researchers distributed a self-administered questionnaire once in August-September 2009 and November 2009 to all pediatricians in Canada. 50% of the pediatricians responded to the questionnaire and were separated into two groups those who responded before the vaccine was available and those who responded after. The data showed before the vaccination campaign, 63% of those who responded thought H1N1 was a serious disease as opposed to 75% who felt this way after vaccination was available. It also showed that 50% of thought the H1N1 vaccine was safe before the vaccine was available compared to 77% afterwards.

## Regional News

### Region 1

The District 1 Regional Medical Response Coalition (D1RMRC) hosted the 9th Annual WMD/ CBRNE Emergency Preparedness Symposium at the MSU Kellogg Center on February 17. Once again, the coalition partnered with the Region 1 Homeland Security Planning Board to provide a full day of education. Over 200 participants were involved in the morning presentations and afternoon workshops that covered a broad range of topics: workplace violence awareness response, present threats and recognition, and the Michigan Rural Hospital Incident Command program. The afternoon included a series of workshops that included developing a hazard vulnerability analysis, HICS for small organizations, workplace violence, and reviewing the Region 1 Disaster Behavioral Health Response Protocol and Plan. The day concluded with a joint strategic planning meeting with the Region 1 boards for Homeland Security and D1RMRC.

The D1RMRC also hosted the Medical Preparedness and Response for Bombing Incidents training classes in East Lansing in January and February. The staff at Texas Engineering Extension Service and New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology brought this program, developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to Michigan for the first time. The classes received very favorable responses and were attended by a wide range of disciplines.

As spring approaches, the D1RMRC will again go full speed into the exercise and training mode. The DIREPLAY 4 Hospital Evacuation/Shelter in Place exercise began the 2011 season at Sparrow Clinton Hospital and will continue at two additional hospitals. This exercise utilized local emergency management and long term care partners to assist in the complete evacuation of the hospital. In addition, the MIVolunteer Registry was tested with over 120 responses from people willing to assist if this were an actual incident. The Hospital Decontamination training and exercise program will continue. The partnership with the MSU Nursing School will continue with a spring series of tabletop exercises. The D1RMRC staff will begin a fresh round of hospital and Acute/ Alternate Care Center (ACC) site visits in March. Each hospital in the region has identified ACC sites.

Finally, the Michigan State Police's District 1 Coordinator, Lt. Don Boomershine, will be retiring. Lt. Boomershine has been instrumental in assisting the strong relationship with healthcare facilities, local public health, and the emergency managers across the region. We will all miss him!

## Other News

### How Civic Knowledge Trumps a College Degree

The Intercollegiate Studies Institute's (ISI) National Civic Literacy Board issued a report that examined the relationships that exist between higher education, civic knowledge, and citizenship. ISI asked a randomly selected sample of 2,508 Americans ten electoral questions to assess how engaged they were in electoral activities. The data presented three major findings: A college degree fails to promote civic engagement beyond voting; greater civic knowledge trumps a college degree as the leading factor in encouraging civic engagement; and civic self-education increases active civic engagement. The data also showed the more civic knowledge a person possesses, the least likely they would be elected to an elected office.

### Medical Reserve Corps and National Park Service Partner to Promote Health

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) has recently collaborated with the National Park Service's (NPS) Office of Public Health. Through this new endeavor, both organizations are looking for ways in which MRC units can partner with their nearest NPS location to engage visitors on ideas of health promotion, education, and more. Recently, area units held health promotion days at their neighboring park in which they passed out sunscreen and educated the public on the sun exposure. One unit even hosts a "Hearts & Parks" program which focuses on the ability of parks to be used in active lifestyles. There are many other units working to be of value to the National Park Service.

## Training & Education

Date/Time	Event	Location
Mar. 9, 2011 12:30pm	<b>ICS-400: Advanced Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents</b> Region 2 South is hosting the ICS 400 – Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff. This is a 2.5 day course geared toward senior personnel who are expected to perform in a management capacity at an incident. This course provides training on and resources for personnel who require advanced application of the ICS. The course expands upon information covered in the ICS 100, ICS 200 and ICS 300 (any version) courses. To register, please go to the <a href="#">Region 2 South Training website</a> ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Click "Sign In" (far upper right corner)</li><li>• Use account name "2south@2south.org" and password "2south".</li><li>• Once logged in, click on the "Training" link under the Region 2S icon.</li></ul> Contact Jacqueline Henry by email at <a href="mailto:JHenry@2south.org">JHenry@2south.org</a> for questions.	Westland Specialty Center 35600 Central City Pkwy Westland, MI 48185



Date/Time	Event	Location
Mar. 12, 2011 9am	<b>Continuity of Operations Planning</b> Provide emergency planners with knowledge and skills to create COOP plans, and to return to their jurisdictions and train other emergency planners and state/local/tribal agency personnel to develop their own COOP Plans. This course is sponsored by Department of Homeland Security and the University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security. For more information, including registration information please contact (231) 728-1967 or email <a href="mailto:amandac@miregion6.org">amandac@miregion6.org</a> .	Big Rapids Holiday Inn Ferris State University
Mar. 14, 2011 3pm	<b>FEMA REGION VII Webinar: An Overview of Functional Needs Support Services</b> Join FEMA Region VII for an informative one-hour overview of Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) in General Population Shelters. <a href="#">This webinar</a> and conference call will introduce planning guidance that can be incorporated into existing shelter plans to meet access and functional needs in general population shelters.	webinar
Mar. 15, 2011	<b>4th Conference on Global Preparedness and Resilience</b> <a href="#">This conference</a> will focus on global resilient technologies and infrastructure. It has four interlinked themes presented over the two days of conference: global demand for integrated preparedness, resilient technological applications, resilient infrastructure applications and resiliency forecasting.	Florida Institute of Technology Melbourne, FL
Mar. 21, 2011	<b>Public Health and Radiation Emergency Preparedness</b> <a href="#">This conference</a> provides state and local health officials and their partners with the tools necessary to develop and implement response and recovery plans related to mass casualty radiation events. Visit the conference website for more information.	Atlanta, GA
Mar. 24, 2011	<b>Is Your Teen Ready for Adult Life?</b> This workshop is for families of teens (or professionals who serve them) with special health care needs, receiving mental health services, or who have a disability. Information and practical suggestions will be shared for helping teens prepare to transition from high school to employment, high school to higher education, home to independent living, and/or from child to adult community services. CEUs are available. Cost: \$10-\$15. <a href="#">Click here</a> for more information, including registration information.	Ann Arbor, MI  Additional MI Locations: Apr. 28 - Alpena Apr. 29 - Sault Ste. Marie
Apr. 1, 2011	<b>Michigan Epidemiology Conference</b> This year's conference will feature a keynote address by Dr. Eric Noji, called by some the Father of Disaster Epidemiology. Dr. Noji is a Senior Associate Professor of Epidemiology; Chairman & CEO of Noji Global Health & Security LLC. He will be speaking on the epidemiological aspects of disaster relief and preparedness. Additional details are posted on the <a href="#">Michigan Public Health Association website</a> .	University of Michigan School of Public Health Crossroads Building Ann Arbor, MI

Date/Time	Event	Location
Apr. 3, 2011	<b>E-Beam and X-Ray Irradiation Technologies</b> The National Center for Electron Beam Research (NCEBR) serves as an unbiased venue for academic, government, and industry scientists to carry out strategic electronic pasteurization and sterilization research and commercial projects using E-beam and X-rays. To address the needs of the food, phytosanitary, agribusiness, and pharmaceutical industries the NCEBR is organizing a week-long hands-on <a href="#">workshop</a> in E-Beam and X-ray technologies in April 2011.	400 Discover Drive College Station, TX 77845
Apr. 9, 2011	<b>Accessing Health Care Coverage &amp; Services for MI-Child Training</b> This workshop is for people who serve as "support parents" to fellow parents of children with special needs. Support parents will be able to identify types of public health care coverage available, apply for benefits online, list services available to children and families with hereditary disorders, get information on accessing coverage for mental health services, and become familiar with social security programs for young people. CEUs are available. Cost: \$10-\$15. <a href="#">Click here</a> for more information, including registration information.	Lawrence, MI  Additional Dates: Apr 30 - Petoskey, MI
Apr. 11, 2011	<b>2011 Emergency Preparedness Solutions for Long Term Care Conference</b> Both federal and state laws require skilled, licensed long term care facilities to have a written disaster plan. This conference will provide attendees with resources, templates, personal experiences and lessons learned from prior disaster experiences, while allowing time for networking with partners in emergency preparedness. This conference is open to Michigan long term care administrators, directors of nursing, social work directors, safety/emergency preparedness officers, and surveyors. Please note there is a limit of two representatives per facility. There is no fee for attending this conference. For more information, including registration details, please visit the <a href="#">MI-TRAIN website</a> and search for course ID#: 1025029.	Suburban Collection Showplace Novi, MI
May 2, 2011	<b>Supporting Youth into Healthy Productive Adulthood</b> This workshop is for individuals working with young people in faith-based organizations, schools, and youth groups in Wayne County. Participants will explore ways to give parents/caregivers, teachers, and others working with children the tools they need to make responsible decisions. CUEs are available. Cost: \$10-\$15. <a href="#">Click here</a> for more information, including registration information.	Detroit, MI  Additional MI Locations: May 7 - Detroit
May 3, 2011	<b>Great Lakes Homeland Security Training Conference &amp; Expo</b> This <a href="#">annual conference</a> brings together more than 1,200 attendees from a variety of disciplines including law enforcement, fire, public health and health care, school administration, emergency management, and the private sector.	Grand Rapids, MI

Date/Time	Event	Location
May 5, 2011	<b>Great Lakes Border Health Initiative Conference</b> Save the date for this important international conference. As more information becomes available, it will be posted on <a href="#">Michigan's border health webpage</a> .	Niagara Falls, NY
May 25, 2011	<b>Communicable Disease Conference</b> <a href="#">This conference</a> seeks to provide the latest knowledge on communicable disease diagnosis, surveillance, reporting, laboratory test interpretation, and incorporation of epidemiologic principals. The target audience includes communicable disease nurses, epidemiologists, medical officers, health officers, infection control professionals, environmental health specialists, physicians, or any other health professional interested in communicable diseases.	Doubletree Hotel Bay City, MI
Jun. 19, 2011	<b>21st World Conference on Disaster Management</b> This year's <a href="#">conference</a> will bring emergency response and management delegates from over 40 countries. The WCDM offers a program that challenges delegates by examining traditional concepts and methods, and provides: new ideas and approaches to problem solving; both leading edge and topical presentations; opportunities to connect with key individuals and organizations across the disaster management spectrum.	Metro Convention Center Toronto, CANADA



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This publication is supported by Cooperative Agreement Number 5U90/TP517018-09 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.